THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There is no proposal for handing over the surplus land of Kandla Port Trust to the Gujarat State.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Sale of infants from orphanages in Andhra Pradesh

2379. DR. KARAN SINGH:

SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent reported racket flourishing in Andhra Pradesh involving sale of infants from orphanages by way of adoption; and

(b) if so, the number and the details of the cases reported since March this year and the steps taken to prevent such rackets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry has not received any report or details of Specific cases but an inquiry is being conducted into the allegations by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. In the meantime all State Governments have been asked to take necessary steps to prevent similar incidents in future which *inter alia*, include:

(i) Licensing of all Residential Homes and setting up of state adoption units

(ii) Joint inspections should take place of orphanages and agencies

(iii) Enforcement of Orphanages and other Charitable Homes Act, 1960

(iv) Monitoring of adoption activities quoting recent happenings in Andhra Pradesh.

Further directives have also been issued to the concerned agencies and organizations to streamline their activities and adhere to the government guidelines in this respect.